stase), and partly into gaseous compounds decomposed by contact with the air into carbonic acid and these ammoniacal derivatives.

The surprising circumstance that the plant should in this way give off as an excretion a part of its scanty supply of nitrogen loses its improbability, as the author remarks, when we know that the tips of the roots usually have an acid reaction, and that the ammoniacal derivatives carried down by water into the soil are again taken up by them.

Karsten expresses a hope that a thorough study of these conditions will elucidate many phenomena which are still obscure and inexplicable,—for example, the penetration of many germinating parasitic fungi into particular organs of plants, particularly such as the developing embryos of more highly organized plants, and their leaf- and flower-buds—and the finding of the fissures of these organs by the germinal mycelium of the fungus, which not unfrequently takes place—further, the finding of the micropyle of atropal ovules projecting freely into the cavity of the ovary by the pollen-tube; for probably each of these organs exhales a specifically peculiar compound which serves as the first nourishment of some one definite kind of growing fungal germ or pollen-tube, and guides it to the place of its subsequent development.—*Zeitschr. des allgem. österr. Apotheker-Vereines*, No. 11, 1871. Communicated by the Author.

A new Genus of the Eolididæ. By Prof. Salvatore Trinchese.

Prof. Trinchese, of Genoa, has described a new form belonging to the family Eolididæ, obtained upon seaweeds in the port of Genoa, in May 1869. He regards it as forming a new genus most nearly allied to *Hermæa*, Lovén, but also presenting considerable affinity to the genera *Phyllobranchus*, Bergh, and *Chiorœra*, Gould. He characterizes it as follows, under the name of

Beccaria.

Corpus elongatum, subcompressum, postice attenuatum. *Caput* distinctum, utrinque in lobum planum extensum. *Podarium* latum, angulis anterioribus acutis, paullulum productis. *Branchiæ* numerosæ, foliaceæ, seriebus minus distinctis ad latera dorsi dispositæ. *Rhinophoria* (superior tentacles) longa, foliacea, convoluta. *Foramina generationis* (*et ani?*) ad dextrum latus. *Maxillæ* nullæ. *Radula* dentibus validis non denticulatis prædita.

The genus is named in honour of Prof. Beccari.

For the species he proposes the name of *Beccaria tricolor*; it is of a delicate green colour throughout, but covered with small globules of a splendid white and deep carmine-red colour. These extend also to the tentacles and branchial leaves. The white globules form a transverse band across the anterior margin of the body and another immediately in front of the pericardial sac. On the dorsal surface of the latter they are arranged in little round groups circumscribed and separated by red globules; and a similar arrange-

ment occurs on the lower part of the branchiferous portion of the back. The animal is well figured, with elaborate details. Its total length is 0·0075 mètre.—*Annali del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Genova*, i. pp. 47–54, pls. 4–7.

On the Entozoa of the Dolphins. By M. H. Gervais.

About twenty species of Entozoa have been indicated as living in the toothed Cetacea, and M. van Beneden has lately published a complete list of them in the Bulletins of the Belgian Academy.

Of these the common porpoise (*Phocæna communis*) alone has furnished five—namely, *Ascaris simplex*, *Strongylus inflexus*, *S. minor*, *S. convolutus*, and *Filaria inflexicaudata*. Only two are cited from the common dolphin (*Delphinus Delphis*), namely *Echinorhynchus pellucidus* and *Phyllobothrium Delphini*. A dolphin of this species from Concarneau, dissected at the anatomical laboratory of the Museum, furnished, besides the *Phyllobothrium*, several other species, namely:—among the Nematoda, (1) *Ascaris simplex*, previously observed in the porpoise; (2) an undescribed species of *Trichosoma* found in the lung: among the Trematoda, a species of fluke (*Distoma*) extracted from the biliary canals: and among the Cestoda a very singular worm, with a long and slender body, without articulations, and resembling the *Ligulæ*, but possessing, like the scoleces of this order, a cephalic inflation furnished with four disks, but wanting the circlet of hooks. The scoleciform part is slender, and may be about one metre in length. From the head start two long, waved excretory canals, analogous to those found by M. van Beneden in the Cestode worms of various osseous fishes.

These worms were enveloped in cysts placed on the lower surface of the diaphragm, and some of them on the anterior abdominal muscles. The cysts are very voluminous, measuring 3 or 4 centimetres in length and 2 in breadth; they are generally oval or almond-shaped, but sometimes nearly spherical. Their walls are tolerably resistant; on cutting into them, a second envelope is found, forming a second cyst, of which the form varies greatly. The greater number of them were spherical, and one of the halves was invaginated in the other: this kind of sphere was umbilicated at one of its poles; and a very delicate nearly transparent membrane fixed it to the wall of the first cyst. Others were oval, flattened and festooned at the margins; others, united by their extremities, communicated through a short hollow pedicle. On opening the second cyst, the worm is found coiled up like a ball of thread.

The author regards this worm as constituting a new genus uniting the *Tæniæ* with the *Ligulæ*; but the generative form (*strobile*) has yet to be discovered. He proposes to name the animal *Stenotenia Delphini*. The dolphin which furnished it also contained numerous smaller cysts tenanted by *Phyllobothrium Delphini*; and the author has met with the latter species in a very old *Delphinus Tursio* taken in the Mediterranean near Cette.—*Comptes Rendus*, Nov. 28, 1870, p. 779.